during Tenth Five Year Plan ranged between 31-33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and natural gas production was about 31-32 Billion Cubic Metric (BCM). The main reason of stagnant production was natural decline of the aging field. ONGC, Oil and Private/Joint Venture companies are implementing Improved Oil Recovery/Enhanced oil Recovery techniques to arrest the decline in oil & gas production. In addition, following steps have been taken to enhance oil & gas security for the country:

(1) Offering of Exploration blocks through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) Faster development of oil & gas discoveries.

(c) Acquisition of oil & gas assets abroad.

(d) Focusing on alternate sources such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Gas hydrates, Undergroiund Coal Gasification (UCG) etc.

Supply of kerosene oil to ration card holders

†2983. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide additional kerosene oil to the APL ration card holders of the families above the poverty line;

(b) if so, the quantity of additional oil that will be provided; and

(c) whether this will not affect the BPL ration card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide additional kerosene oil under Public Distribution System (PDS) to Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of reply of part (a) above.

Production of CBM in Jharkhand

†2984. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of scheme for production of methane in coal-beds in Jharkhand by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for delay in starting this project;

(c) the amount to be invested on this project; and

(d) by when commercial production is likely to be started under the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government of India awarded five CBM blocks to ONGC under 3 rounds of CBM bidding. The reasons for slow progress is mainly because of the delays in land acquisition of drill sites and for approach roads etc, and also non-availability of suitable drilling rigs for CBM. ONGC was to drill 43 core holes and 63 exploratory and pilot wells with an estimated expenditure of US$ 72.3 Million. However, ONGC had drilled 25 core holes and 4 exploratory wells with an investment of US$ 11.5 Million so far.

(d) Commercial CBM production will dependon the quantity of CBM available in these blocks and the implementation of development plan.

Exploration of hydrocarbon deposit by ONGC

2985. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation had explored a hydrocarbon deposit at Turputallu in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the estimated quantity and quality of hydrocarbon found in Turputallu;

(c) by when the Commercial production is likely to be commenced from the above said reserve; and

(d) the estimated cost involved in tapping the potential of this reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exploratory efforts of ONGC have led to the discovery of "Turputallu" gas find, in Krishna Godavari onland basin, in the State of Andhra Pradesh. As on 01.04.2006, the estimated in-place gas of Turputallu find is 72.1 million cubic meters having Ultimate reserves of 7.3 million cubic meters. Since Gas production has not yet commenced, quality of gas at this stage has not been ascertained.